

STUDY FRAMEWORK

The Hetch Hetchy Restoration Study Framework will cover seven major topics.

Existing proposals. The study will review dam removal, stream and vegetation restoration, recreational opportunities, and scenic quality for existing proposals of Hetch Hetchy Valley restoration. Water and power replacement options will also be evaluated on a regional basis, including new facilities, relative cost, institutional issues, water quality, and environmental concerns.

Resource management plans. Current federal, State, and local resource management plans, such as the California Water Plan Update and the California Outdoor Recreation Plan, will provide context for Hetch Hetchy restoration. Other project considerations will also be discussed, such as flood control, climate change, statewide environmental impacts, future M&I treatment requirements, water supply technologies, State, regional, and local water use, and regional planning.

Restoration and recreation alternatives. Alternatives for Hetch Hetchy Valley restoration and recreation will be presented. Recreational alternatives will range from passive to active (e.g. from maintaining O'Shaughnessy Dam to removing it altogether). Restoration options will cover a similar range (i.e. from restoration by Nature alone to actively managed).

Water and power replacement components. Complementing these restoration and recreation options will be an array of water and power replacement components. Water supply, drought preparedness, water quality, operational flexibility, flood impacts and environmental and energy considerations will be evaluated for each component.

Water and power replacement bundles. Combinations of components, or "bundles," will be needed to match varied water and power replacement needs. Replacement water supplies and conservation will be examined using three main views of 1) modifications to the Hetch Hetchy/Upper Tuolumne River system, 2) San Joaquin Valley supplies, and 3) Bay-Delta supplies. Going downstream, the potential water replacement elements increase, as do the needed institutional participation. Power replacement concepts will consist of two main concepts of 1) modifications to the Hetch Hetchy system and 2) other sources.

Combined Assessment. The study will assess Hetch Hetchy restoration and recreation components, including benefits and costs, as well as water and power replacement alternatives, within both regional and statewide contexts.

Next steps. The study will close with a discussion of "next steps," with an emphasis on developing primary objectives, stakeholder processes, agency roles, and federal, State, local, and private financing.